

1mM EDTA; 250 mM sodium chloride at 55°C for 18-24h, and wash in 6XSSC for 15 min. (X3) 3XSSC for 15 min. (X1) at 55°C, wherein said plant exhibits a first level of disease resistance; and

(b) applying to the plant provided in step (a) a microbicide that confers a second level of disease resistance;

(c) whereby application of said microbicide to said plant confers a synergistically enhanced third level of disease resistance that is greater than the sum of the first and second levels of disease resistance.

8. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein said protein comprises the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2.

10. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein said nucleotide sequence comprises the coding sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:6.

42. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein said microbicide is a fungicide selected from the following group:

4-[3-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)acryloyl]morpholine ("dimethomorph");

5-methyl-1,2,4-triazolo[3,4-b][1,3]benzothiazole ("tricyclazole");

3-allyloxy-1,2-benzothiazole-1,1-dioxide ("probonazole");

μ -[2-(4-chlorophenyl)ethyl]- μ -(1,1-dimethylethyl)-1H-1,2,4-triazole-1-ethanol, ("tebuconazol");

1-[[3-(2-chlorophenyl)-2--(4-fluorophenyl)oxiran-2-yl]methyl]-1H-1,2,4-triazole, ("epoxyconazol");

μ -(4-chlorophenyl)-- μ -(1-cyclopropylethyl)--1H-1,2,4-triazole--1-ethanol, ("cyproconazol");

5-(4-chlorobenzyl)--2,2-dimethyl-1--(1H-1,2,4-triazol-1--ylmethyl)-cyclopentanol, ("metconazol");

2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)--3-(1H-1,2,4-triazol-1-yl)-propyl--1,1,2,2-tetrafluoroethyl-ether, ("tetraconazol");

methyl-(E)-2-{2-[6-(2-cyanophenoxy)pyrimidin-4-yloxy]phenyl}-3-methoxyacrylate,
("ICI A 5504", "azoxystrobin");

methyl-(E)-2-methoximino-2-[μ-(o-tolyloxy)-o-tolyl]acetate, ("BAS 490 F", "cresoxime
methyl");

2-(2-phenoxyphenyl)-(E)-2-methoximino-N-methylacetamide);

[2-(2,5-dimethylphenoxyethyl)-phenyl]-(E)-2-methoximino-N-methylacetamide);

(1R,3S/1S,3R)-2,2-dichloro-N-[(R)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)ethyl]-1-ethyl-3-
methylcyclopropanecarboxamide, ("KTU 3616");

manganese ethylenebis(dithiocarbamate)polymer-zinc complex, ("mancozeb");

1-[2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-4-propyl-1,3-dioxolan-2-ylmethyl]-1H-1,2,4-triazole,
("propiconazole");

1-{2-[2-chloro-4-(4-chlorophenoxy)phenyl]-4-methyl-1,3-dioxolan-2-ylmethyl}-1H-
1,2,4-triazole, ("difenoconazole");

1-[2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)pentyl]-1H-1,2,4-triazole, ("penconazole");

cis-4-[3-(4-tert-butylphenyl)-2-methylpropyl]-2,6-dimethylmorpholine,
("fenpropimorph");

1-[3-(4-tert-butylphenyl)-2-methylpropyl]-piperidine, ("fenpropidin");

4-cyclopropyl-6-methyl-N-phenyl-2-pyrimidinamine ("cyprodinil");

(RS)-N-(2,6-dimethylphenyl)-N-(methoxyacetyl)-alanine methyl ester ("metalaxyl",
"ridomil");

(R)-N-(2,6-dimethylphenyl)-N-(methoxyacetyl)-alanine methyl ester ("R-metalaxyl");

1,2,5,6-tetrahydro-4H-pyrrolo[3,2,1-ij]quinolin-4-one ("pyroquilon"); and

ethyl hydrogen phosphonate ("fosetyl").

58. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein said microbicide is either
a benzothiadiazole compound, an isonicotinic acid compound, or a salicylic acid compound.

59. A method according to claim 58, wherein said microbicide is a benzothiadiazole
compound.

62. (Amended) A method according to claim 59, wherein said benzothiadiazole compound is benzo(1,2,3)thiadiazole-7-carbothioic acid *S*-methyl ester.

Please add new claims 68-93 as follows:

68. (New) A method according to claim 1, wherein said microbicide is 4-[3-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)acryloyl]morpholine ("dimethomorph").

69. (New) A method according to claim 1, wherein said microbicide is 5-methyl-1,2,4-triazolo[3,4-b][1,3]benzothiazole ("tricyclazole").

70. (New) A method according to claim 1, wherein said microbicide is 3-allyloxy-1,2-benzothiazole-1,1-dioxide ("probonazole").

71. (New) A method according to claim 1, wherein said microbicide is μ -[2-(4-chlorophenyl)ethyl]- μ -(1,1-dimethylethyl)-1H-1,2,4-triazole-1-ethanol ("tebuconazol").

72. (New) A method according to claim 1, wherein said microbicide is 1-[[3-(2-chlorophenyl)-2--(4-fluorophenyl)oxiran-2-yl]methyl]-1H-1,2,4-triazole ("epoxyconazol").

73. (New) A method according to claim 1, wherein said microbicide is μ -(4-chlorophenyl)-- μ -(1-cyclopropylethyl)--1H-1,2,4-triazole--1-ethanol ("cyproconazol").

74. (New) A method according to claim 1, wherein said microbicide is 5-(4-chlorobenzyl)--2,2-dimethyl-1--(1H-1,2,4-triazol-1-yl)methyl)-cyclopentanol ("metconazol").

75. (New) A method according to claim 1, wherein said microbicide is 2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)--3-(1H-1,2,4-triazol-1-yl)-propyl--1,1,2,2-tetrafluoroethyl-ether ("tetraconazol").

76. (New) A method according to claim 1, wherein said microbicide is methyl-(E)-2-{2-[6-(2-cyanophenoxy)pyrimidin-4-yloxy]phenyl}--3-methoxyacrylate ("ICI A 5504", "azoxystrobin").

77. (New) A method according to claim 1, wherein said microbicide is methyl-(E)--2-methoximino--2-[μ -(o-tolyloxy)--o-tolyl]acetate ("BAS 490 F", "cresoxime methyl").

78. (New) A method according to claim 1, wherein said microbicide is 2-(2-phenoxyphenyl)-(E)-2-methoximino--N-methylacetamide.

79. (New) A method according to claim 1, wherein said microbicide is [2-(2,5-dimethylphenoxy)methyl]-phenyl)-(E)--2-methoximino-N-methylacetamide.

80. (New) A method according to claim 1, wherein said microbicide is (1R,3S/1S,3R)-2,2-dichloro--N-[(R)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)ethyl]--1-ethyl-3-methylcyclopropanecarboxamide ("KTU 3616").

81. (New) A method according to claim 1, wherein said microbicide is manganese ethylenebis(dithiocarbamate)polymer-zinc complex ("mancozeb").

82. (New) A method according to claim 1, wherein said microbicide is 1-[2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-4-propyl-1,3-dioxolan--2-ylmethyl]--1H-1,2,4-triazole ("propiconazole").

83. (New) A method according to claim 1, wherein said microbicide is 1-{2-[2-chloro-4-(4-chlorophenoxy)phenyl]-4-methyl--1,3-dioxolan--2-ylmethyl}--1H-1,2,4-triazole ("difenoconazole").

84. (New) A method according to claim 1, wherein said microbicide is 1-[2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)pentyl--1H-1,2,4-triazole ("penconazole").

85. (New) A method according to claim 1, wherein said microbicide is cis-4-[3-(4-tert-butylphenyl)--2-methylpropyl]--2,6-dimethylmorpholine ("fenpropimorph").

86. (New) A method according to claim 1, wherein said microbicide is 1-[3-(4-tert-butylphenyl)--2-methylpropyl]-piperidine ("fenpropidin").

87. (New) A method according to claim 1, wherein said microbicide is 4-cyclopropyl-6-methyl-N-phenyl-2-pyrimidinamine ("cyprodinil").

88. (New) A method according to claim 1, wherein said microbicide is (RS)-N-(2,6-dimethylphenyl--N-(methoxyacetyl)-alanine methyl ester ("metalaxyl", "ridomil").

89. (New) A method according to claim 1, wherein said microbicide is (R)-N-(2,6-dimethylphenyl--N-(methoxyacetyl)-alanine methyl ester ("R-metalaxyl").

90. (New) A method according to claim 1, wherein said microbicide is 1,2,5,6-tetrahydro-4H-pyrrolo[3,2,1-ij]quinolin-4-one ("pyroquilon").

91. (New) A method according to claim 1, wherein said microbicide is ethyl hydrogen phosphonate ("fosetyl").

92. (New) A method according to claim 1, wherein said microbicide is copper hydroxide.

93. (New) A method according to claim 1, wherein said plant is selected from the group consisting of: barley, cucumber, tobacco, rice, chili, wheat, banana, and tomato.